

President U Thein Sein meets Chairman of MeySen Academy School, Chancellor of Australian National University and former FM

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Chairman of MeySen Academy School Mr John Broman of Japan at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm on Monday to hold talks about education promotion of Myanmar, scholarship awards of the President, enhancement of English language proficiency skill and cooperation in academic matters. (See page 3)



President U Thein Sein with Chairman of MeySen Academy School Mr John Broman of Japan and party at Presidential Palace.—MNA

President U Thein Sein to attend 10th ASEM Summit in Milan

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a visit to Milan, Italy, in the near future to attend the 10th ASEM Summit to be held in Milan of Italy.—MNA

Energy Bill limits on extraction, selling natural gas, electricity



Ministry of Energy is planning to boost the production of electricity within two years, especially from natural-gas fired electric power sector.

PHOTO : KYSPEAKS.COM

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 13 Oct — Energy Bill setting limits on extraction and selling the energy resources and on electricity production has been drafted in October and will be put forward to the parliament which resumes on Monday, according to the Ministry of Energy.

The bill which is expected to be enacted as a law next year allows extraction and selling of natural gas within the limits by the law, according to the ministry.

The Energy Bill is

drafted by experts from Ministry of Electric Power, Ministry of Energy, Myanmar Engineering Association, Ministry of Industry and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The Ministry of Energy is planning to use natural gas extracted inland and offshore as from the 2014-2015 fiscal year just for generating electricity as part of efforts for supplying electricity to the whole country within more than two years. Rising production of natural gas is one of the factors which

have supported the country's economy to be on track to grow by 7.8 percent in both Fiscal Year 2014 (ending 31 March 2015) and in FY 2015, according to IMF.

(See page 2)

Correction

Please read 2014-2015 fiscal year instead of 2014-2014 fiscal year in the 7th line in 2nd paragraph of the sixth column of the story under the heading of "Myanmar Timber Enterprise invites open tender" on front page of this daily issued on 13-10-2014.—Ed

IMFC provides focus on structural reforms to create more growth, more jobs for uneven global recovery

By Ye Myint

WASHINGTON, D.C, 13 Oct — The International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund told a press briefing on Saturday that it is committed to lifting potential growth and creating a job-rich global economy with the single biggest focus on structural reforms. The IMF's policy steering committee also pledged support for Ebola-hit countries and extension of zero interest rate loans for the low-income countries.

"Structural reform is needed to address the challenges of tomorrow", said Singaporean Finance Minister and IMFC Chair Tharman Shanmugaratnam, adding that the onus is on all members to pick up the pace as it has been too slow.

"If we don't focus with urgency on the reforms, we won't solve even today's problems", the IMFC Chair voiced. "Our single biggest focus is to be on them that will enable us to lift potential growth and build a bet-

ter tomorrow".

In her speech, the IMF's Managing Director Christine Lagarde highlighted the importance of the global policy agenda for growth and jobs, calling for efficient investment in infrastructure with the adequate finance institutions in place. The IMF Chief stressed the need to deal with the immediate economic consequences of

the Ebola outbreak in three countries— Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone that were approved by the IMF to be provided with an immediate assistance of US\$ 130 million.

She also said that she was very delighted to see the IMFC's support for extension of zero interest rate loans for the low-income countries.

GNLM



IMFC Chairman Tharman Shanmugaratnam with IMF Chief Christine Lagarde: IMFC called for the biggest single focus of members to lift potential growth and build a better tomorrow.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses legal protection for two Myanmar nationals accused of murder in Thailand and peace process



Representatives attending Monday's session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session on Monday discussed human rights and legal protection for two Myanmar nationals accused of murdering two tourists in Thailand and the progress of the peace process in My-

Pyithu Hluttaw

Labour camps have been transformed into vocational training centres: Deputy Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — The Correctional Department has transformed labour camps into agricultural and vocational training centres and there are now over 10,000 prisoners in 46 agricultural and vocational training centres, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Monday.

A health staff is appointed to each training centre and prisoners are allowed to receive medical treatment at hospitals and from local and international health or-

ganizations, the deputy minister added.

Although the prisoners have to work at the centres, they offer themselves to go to the centres of their own volition as they have the opportunities to enjoy the environs, holidays and full-remission, to spend three days with their families every month and to learn agriculture, livestock breeding and manufacturing methods, according to the deputy minister. In addition, a prisoner at the centre earns K 200 per day and they can take out

the money when they are released, the deputy minister added.

In conclusion, the deputy minister said that the Correctional Department has been taking measures to enable prisoners to enjoy their rights by adopting the Standard Minimum Rule of the United Nation.

Pyithu Hluttaw session today discussed the use of sub-standard pesticides and human resources development and approved the Myanmar Port Authority bill.

MNA

9th ACWC meeting emphasizes protection of rights of women and children

YANGON, 13 Oct — ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) held its ninth meeting at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on Monday morning.

Director-General U Soe Kyi of Social Welfare Department and Chairperson of ACWC Ms Datin Paduka Intan Kassin made

opening addresses.

The Director-General said that Myanmar is implementing the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 for development of women's life. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement cooperates with UN agencies and NGOs in drawing the prevention of vio-

lence against women law. He stressed the need for ACWC to accelerate tasks of ASEAN Charter and ASEAN Roadmap.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of ASEAN Secretariat, officials of UN agencies, the ministry and Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization.

MNA

Energy Bill limits on extraction, selling natural gas, electricity

(from page 1)

Myanmar has one of the lowest electrification rates in the world, with only 33 percent of the

population has an electricity connection, the World Bank said.

The World Bank Group is committed to Myanmar's

energy development. In January 2014 President Jim Yong Kim announced \$1 billion in financial support to expand electricity generation, transmission and distribution in the country.—GNLM

anmar and international assistance for it.

Representative U Khin Maung Yi submitted the motion calling upon the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to send a message to the speaker of the National Assembly of Thailand to provide human rights and legal protection for two Myanmar nationals accused of murdering two tourists on Koh Tao Island in Thailand and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session approved the motion.

As for the peace process, Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min said that it is difficult to predict whether success will be achieved or not as the peace process is delicate.

The government

formed the international donors' organization with Norway, Britain, Australia, the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank on 12 June 2012 in order to get international assistance for the peace process, he added.

In addition, the union minister said that the member countries has a policy to contribute financial assistance fully only when the nationwide ceasefire has been reached.

The office building of the MPC worth US\$ 1.2 million was offered by Japan while the EU has intended to spend 5 million euros on the peace process of Myanmar. UN Peace Building Fund provided 7 vehicles, two generators and communication equipment worth US\$ 40,4600 for the MPC, according to the union minister.

Nippon Foundation has provided 57,399 bags

of rice and medicines for 14 ethnic groups and the local people so far and negotiations are underway to donate basic food items worth US\$ 6.3 million to about 100,000 local people. Arrangements are being made to donate a medicated mosquito net and a solar lamp each to 17,552 households.

The union minister said that all the funds for the MPC came from aid and grant programs and no loan has been taken for the MPC.

The union minister said that challenges and difficulties in the peace process are a reality as the government has to negotiate with large armed groups and small armed groups at the same time adding that political and economic reforms being carried out simultaneously with the peace process will give strength to overcome the challenges and difficulties.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw call for rights, justice for two murder suspects in Thailand



Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Saw Maw Tun.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — The 11th session of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its 15th day meeting on Monday answering five questions and approving a bill and deciding to send a message to the President of National Assembly of Thailand.

U Sai Tin Aung, representative of Constituency No 5 of Kachin state asked whether to sell the copies of State Constitution, as well as laws and bylaws of ministries at prices for common people.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut said that these documents, including notifications and orders, have been printed in the publications of Myanmar Gazette, which are available by subscription

or can be purchased at the bookstores of Sarpay Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

The union minister also said that these publications can be read at offices of Information and Public Relations across the country, while some 314 public digital libraries have been set up at the public areas in states and regions to be able to read the digital versions of these documents.

U Nyan Lin, representative of No.3 Constituency of Ayeyawaddy region, asked he wondered the situation of preparedness measures to submit the national intangible cultural heritages to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. Daw Sandar Khin, deputy minister for culture,

replied that her ministry has collected a total of 254 materials, including proverbs, hearsays, legends, customs and traditional handicrafts of ethnic people, which are to be submitted to the UNESCO.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw then approved the Law Translation Commission Bill with the decision of parliamentarians.

Finally, Amyotha Hluttaw agreed on the submission of 'Message of Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw to President of National Assembly of Thailand', which calls for rights and justice for two Myanmar suspects who are being arrested for murder cases two tourists in Koh Tao island in Surat Thani, southern Thailand

GNLM

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein meets . . .*(from page 1)*

The President also received Mr Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Foreign Minister at the same venue at 3 pm to discuss peace-making process, cooperation in education sector and cooperation in human resources development.—MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with Mr Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Foreign Minister.

MNA

**International Day for Disaster Reduction 2014 observed**

Vice President U Nyan Tun views round documentary photos on efforts for disaster risk reduction.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — Vice President U Nyan Tun attended the ceremony to mark the International Day of Disaster Reduction 2014 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice President said: Every Year, the International Day for Disaster Reduction is to be commemorated worldwide on 13th October according to the Resolution (64/200) of the United Nations General Assembly which was held on 21st December 2009. Likewise other countries, Myanmar has been commemorated the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction since 2010. We conducted the International

Day for Disaster Reduction with the theme that United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction's each year focus group.

We commemorated the International Day for Disaster Reduction with the theme of "Children & Young People as Partners for Disaster Risk Reduction" in 2010.

The theme of this year IDDR Event is "Resilience is for life". United Nations highlighted to build resilience by using knowledge, experiences and ideas of the senior citizens when we conduct the disaster risk reduction activities, providing humanitarian assistance and implementing the long term recovery measures.

Nowadays, each and

every global Nation has to face the impacts triggered by global warming and climate change. There were 296 disasters happened and killed (21250) lives and total economic losses were (192) billions US Dollars in 2013. In Myanmar, there were 360 disasters occurred and 174,358 people were affected and total damage and losses were (853.39 million Kyats) in 2013-2014 financial year.

As you all know, we, ASEAN Member States suffer from the disasters and its impacts which are the consequences of Global Climate Change in these years. In these years, We, ASEAN are suffered from (14) disaster events.

So that the ASEAN chairman, president U

Thein Sein highlighted "To prevent such tragic incidents in the future, we must work together to enhance cooperation and mutual understanding" in his speech at the commemoration day for 47th ASEAN Day in 8 August 2014.

In the Nay Pyi Taw Statement that we declared at the 24th ASEAN summit, we agreed to strengthen and empower the existing ASEAN mechanisms and multi-sectoral actions to improve prevention, preparedness, response, relief and recovery on disasters in a more coordinated manner by utilizing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as the main common platform for disaster man-

agement in ASEAN and enhancing the capability of the ASEAN coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

To implement the disaster risk reduction strategies, Institutional arrangements like National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (NDPCC) at the Union Level and State/Region/District and Township Disaster Preparedness Committees at all levels have been formulated like other countries. The responsibilities and functions of each organization have been designated, the communities' active involvement in community based disaster risk reduction is pivotal.

The disaster management law has been enacted on 31 July 2013 by the Parliament and we prioritize to assist the vulnerable group such as children, the aged, disability and women (especially for pregnant and maternal) in this law.

In fact, National Development and Disaster Risk Reduction are interdependent and so whatever development efforts should be undergone through the disaster risk reduction channel.

The initial responders of disaster are local community and primarily the local Government itself is to manage the overarching impacts. In that matter, to build up the coping capacity and resilience of local

community and it Government will be the most effective strategy. The government has been carrying out difference kinds of disaster management training, community based awareness raising programme, youth volunteer training to strengthen the volunteer spirit in the mindset of youth.

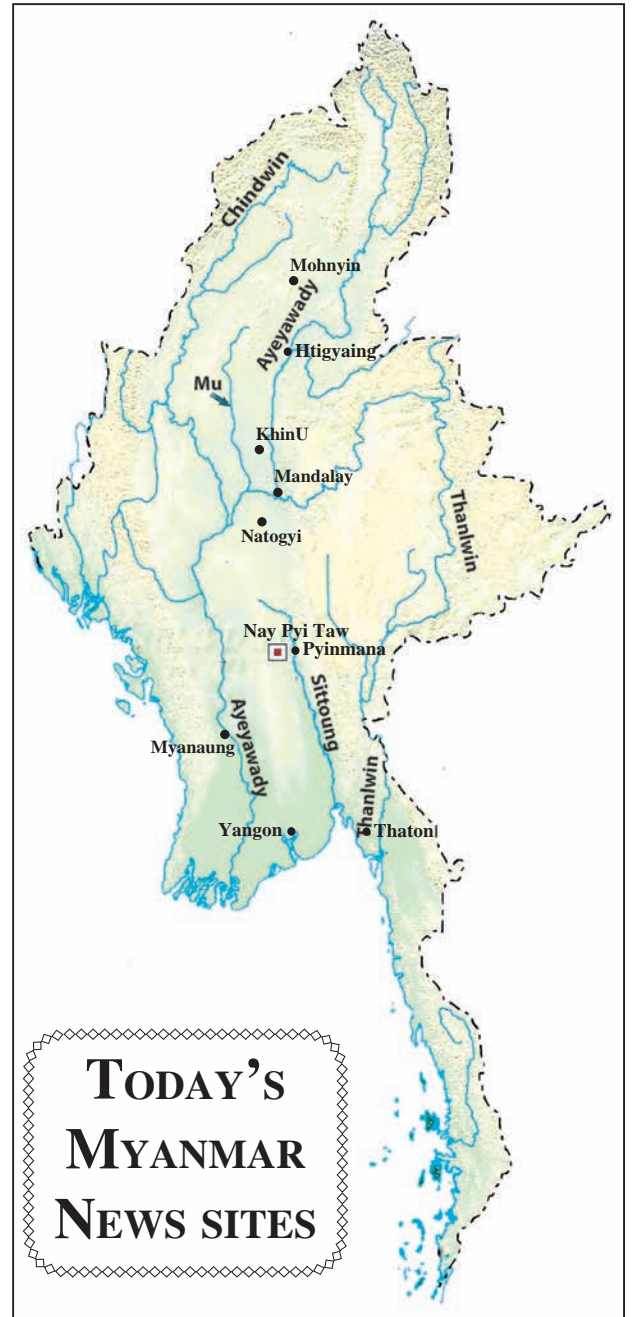
Currently, we are establishing Disaster Management Training Centre in Hinthada Township in Ayeyawady Region.

In addition, with the deliberation efforts, the Government implements disaster risk reduction activities link with Hyogo framework for actions and ASEAN agreement on disaster management and emergency response (AADMER) for effective response to disaster and loosely cooperation with ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In Myanmar, the Union Government created an enabling environment in disaster response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and sustainable development through effective coordination and cooperation with the various stakeholders in the time of Nargis Cyclone on 2nd and 3rd May 2008, Giri Cyclone on 22nd October 2010, Tahlay Earthquake on the 24 of March 2011, Magway Flashflood on

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LOCAL NEWS

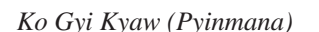


TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES



Head of Sagaing Re-
gion Agriculture Depart-

Chinlone players invited to show skills at commemorative ceremonies



LOCAL NEWS

Self-reliant power line launched in rural area of Natogyi Tsp

NATOGYI, 13 Oct — A ceremony to launch the new power line on a self-reliant basis was held in Tetsi Village of Natogyi Township in Mandalay Region on Sunday morning.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint pressed the button to switch on the power line.

It was also attended by region ministers U Aung Zan and U Kyaw Myint and departmental officials.

At Pahtana Yadana Beikman, the Chief Minister met local people and

heard reports on construction of a new school building, appointment of teachers and water supply and attended to the needs.

The Myingyan District electrical engineer shared electrical knowledge to the people. The chief minister and party met local people at Dhammayon in Kyabinaing Village of Natogyi Township and explained progress of rural development and poverty alleviation being undertaken by the region government.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Stake driven for construction of new building at BEMS branch



MYANAUNG, 13 Oct— Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay drove stake for construction of new school building at Hsannichaung Basic Education Middle School Branch in Hsannichaung Village of Myanaung Township on 11 October.

The 120 feet by 30 feet building will be constructed with the use of the fund of the Ministry of Education in 2014-15 fiscal year.

It was also attended by Ayeyawady Region MPs U Aung Win Swe and U Aung Myo Nyunt, the township administrator and local authorities.

Win Bo-Township IPRD

Ordination hall, pagodas to be built in Ottarathiri Tsp



NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — Plans are underway to build Mingala ordination hall and two Pagodas in No 2 Shwenatha Monastery of Myoma Shwenatha Ward of Ottarathiri Township.

The presiding abbot of the monastery allowed to build the religious edifices on the land plot of the monastery. The ordination hall will be 100 feet by 80 feet and it is designed to

the Wizaya Dhamma ordination hall.

The Pagodas will be nine elbows high on the hillock near the monastery.

Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)

Enthusiasts discuss raising reading habit in Thaton



THATON, 13 Oct—A literary talk was given at the Basic Education Primary School in Chaungwa of Naungbo Village in Thaton Township of Mon State on 12 October.

Staff Officer Daw Khin Saw Lin of District Information and Public Relations Department gave lectures on durability of libraries, Dr Min Zaw of Thaton bookworms association, reading, and writer Shwehton Khin Thida Hlaing, let's read to broadening horizon.

The District IPRD donated books and publications to Phungon Yadana new generation association.

They all met at the roundtable to discuss raising the reading habit and literary affairs.

Thaton District IPRD

Philanthropic association actively takes part in social welfare tasks

PYINMANA, 13 Oct— With the donations of local and foreign wellwishers, "Helping hands" Pyinmana Parahita Association opens a clinic to provide health care services to the people free of

charge at Tagundaing Monastery in Yanaung Ward 1 in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 1 pm to 3 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

The association

formed a blood donors group for patients in emergency cases. Moreover, it manages donation of oxygen to the needy patients round the clock.

Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)

CCA course provided to more than 600 basic education teachers in Htigyaing

HTIGYAING, 13 Oct—A multiplier course for child-centred approach was opened at the hall of Basic Education High School in Htigyaing of Katha District in Sagaing

Region on 10 October.

Township Education Officer U Tin Tun explained the purpose of conducting the training course and important role of responsibility and account-

ability for the staff. The training course will last 12 days. A total of 640 teachers from basic education schools in the township are attending the course.

Kyaw Khe (IPRD)

International Day for Disaster Reduction 2014 marked in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 13 Oct — A ceremony to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2014 was observed at the hall of Mandalay Education College in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Monday, with an address by Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint.

U Aung Lin of UNDP

read the message sent by the secretary-general of the United Nations.

The chief minister and officials presented prizes to the winners in the essay, poem and painting contests.

They viewed the documentary photos on rescue and relief tasks at earthquakes, floods and storms

that occurred in Mandalay Region.

Local youths are under training for taking preparedness measures against natural disasters and disaster risk reduction. A total of 212 youths from seven districts of Mandalay Region are attending the training courses.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Record bust in Cambodia signals Thai dollar counterfeiting boom

BATTAMBANG, (Cambodia), 13 Oct — Brigadier General Sar Theth is the police chief of Battambang, a languid riverside town in western Cambodia. You could also call him the seven million dollar man.

On 19 September, Sar Theth's officers tracked three Thai men in a pick-up truck as it passed through a remote border checkpoint from Thailand. When the truck stopped in the Cambodian district of Phnom Proek, the police pounced.

Inside, said Sar Theth, they found three cardboard boxes packed with \$7.16 million in counterfeit hundred-dollar bills, the largest seizure of fake US notes in Southeast Asia for about a decade and the biggest ever in Cambodia.

"If I close my eyes and touch it, I wouldn't know it was fake," he said, rubbing one of the seized notes between thumb and forefinger at Battambang police headquarters.

According to the US Secret Service, whose agents investigate financial crime worldwide alongside their better-known role as presidential bodyguards, the huge bust points to a well-oiled and growing counterfeit operation in neighboring Thailand, where identical notes had previously been seized.

The alleged involvement of Thai military personnel — the three men arrested were serving or former officers of the Royal Thai Navy — could also embarrass Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. A former general, Prayuth seized power in a 22 May military coup and has vowed to crack down on organized crime.

The men deny any wrongdoing, and the Thai navy said it was awaiting the



Police and court officials examine notes from a seized haul of \$7.16 million in counterfeit hundred-dollar bills, in Battambang on 30 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

conclusion of the investigation before deciding whether to take any action.

There is more than \$1 trillion cash in global circulation, three-quarters of it outside the United States, according to the Secret Service. Tackling counterfeiting is key to maintaining the dollar's credibility as the de facto world currency. Less than a quarter of 1 percent of that \$1 trillion — or about \$2.5 billion — are fakes, said J Kevin Traylor, a Secret Service agent based at the US Embassy in Bangkok. "For the amount of currency out there, we have very little counterfeiting," he told *Reuters*. "That's why the dollar is trusted."

By comparison, global losses from credit, debit and prepaid card fraud in 2012 totaled about \$11.3 billion, according to the *Nilson Report*, an industry newsletter. In South America, where narco-trafficking and counterfeiting often go hand in hand, big seizures of fake bills are not uncommon.

In June, the Secret Service helped the Peruvian police arrest a suspected forger

along with \$4.5 million in fakes. But such seizures are rare in Southeast Asia. The Cambodian bust could suggest both an upsurge in counterfeiting and better cooperation between the Secret Service and local police. For the Secret Service, seizing notes is secondary to finding the printing presses and shutting them down.

The agency was created in 1865 as a branch of the US Treasury to tackle rampant counterfeiting after the Civil War.

It was another 36 years before its agents began protecting presidents, vice-presidents and other VIPs. Even today, most of its 3,200 special agents are busy investigating financial crime.

Traylor, who visited Battambang to inspect the \$7.16 million haul in early October, said \$1 million of the same "better-than-average" fakes had already been seized in Thailand. One person has been arrested in the Thai investigation.

"It is a note that is starting to be manufactured in larger quantities and our investigation points to Thai-

land as the origin," he said. "We will continue our efforts to locate the plant."

In 2013, with Secret Service help, Thai police made 67 arrests and seized \$3.7 million in fake dollars. This year's tally is already at 76 arrests and \$5.6 million seized, not including the Cambodia bust.

The special inks and paper used by the US Treasury to print dollar bills are tightly controlled. This has helped eradicate offset printing of fakes in the United States, where counterfeiters rely on methods such as inkjet printing or color photocopying.

But offset printing — in which the inked image is "offset" from a plate to a rubber blanket and then onto the paper — is still commonly used outside the United States to produce convincing fakes in greater volume. The process requires expensive inks and presses, as well as skilled artists.

"You need talented people to do this," said Special Agent Traylor. And time: he reckoned \$7.16 million could take perhaps two months to make.—*Reuters*

Indonesia, Sri Lanka joint efforts to tackle human smuggling

JAKARTA, 13 Oct — Indonesian and Sri Lankan foreign ministers met here on Monday, discussing ways to step up efforts in addressing human smuggling issue and boosting bilateral trade, which is targeted to reach one billion US dollars next year.

Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa met with his Sri Lankan counterpart Gamini Lakshman Peiris at Marty's office.

The Indonesian minister said Indonesia and Sri Lanka have similar problem related to the issue as the two nations consistently send workers to foreign countries.

Marty said both nations are actively working in international forum of Bali Process that addressing the issue.

According to Marty, it takes further cooperation and agreements with other countries which have similar problem such as Bangladesh, the Philippines, India and Australia.

Indonesia has been a stopover for illegal move-

ment of people from South Asia, Middle East countries, which are aiming to enter Australia to seek better life there after they fled from their war-torn countries.

Besides discussing ways to address the human smuggling issue, the two ministers also discussed ways to improve further cooperation in economy, trade, investment, farming, fishing and tourism.

"We agreed to spur this effort so as to boost up this good relationship to an even better condition," Marty said, adding that with all of those improvements, bilateral trade between the two nations is expected to reach one billion US dollars next year.

In his statement conveyed in the event, Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Gamini Lakshman Peiris said improvement of ties with Indonesia would give significant benefits to his country in terms of economy, politics and development of human resources and health services.

Xinhua

China positive about promoting parliamentary exchanges with Japan

BEIJING, 13 Oct — China's top legislature on Monday showed a positive stance toward resuming exchanges with Japan's parliament, despite prolonged soured relations between the two countries.

The Chinese willingness was expressed during a meeting in Beijing with a Japanese delegation led by Ichiro Aisawa, a senior lawmaker of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

But the Chinese side, including Zhang Ping, vice

chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, and Cao Weizhou, deputy secretary-general of the panel, did not say when it wants to restart the exchanges, according to Aisawa.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Aisawa, head of the lower house steering committee, said he told the Chinese officials that Japan wants to realize the resumption "by the end of this year or March next year at the latest."

Without specifying any timeframe, the Chinese side said it also wants to resume making contacts between the congress and Japan's House of Representatives through "mutual efforts," and is prepared to send a delegation to Tokyo at an appropriate time, according to Aisawa. The exchanges have been stalled since January 2012 as relations between Tokyo and Beijing have been seriously damaged over a territorial dispute and wartime issues.

Since 2005, Japan's Diet and the congress had organized a meeting almost once a year to discuss bilateral and regional affairs.

The parliamentary delegation made the visit at a time when the two countries are exploring the possibility of arranging the first official meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of a regional summit next month in Beijing.—*Kyodo News*

Emperor, Empress attend opening ceremony for sports event



Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko wave as they attend an opening ceremony for the national athletic meet at an athletic stadium in the city of Isahaya, Nagasaki Prefecture on 12 Oct, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Kerry pushes for Mideast peace, donors pledge \$5 billion for Palestinians

CAIRO, 13 Oct — US Secretary of State John Kerry called on Sunday for a renewed commitment to achieving Middle East peace, saying a lasting deal between Israel, the Palestinians and all their neighbours was possible.

But prospects for a renewed peace process appeared dim as Kerry offered no specifics on how to restart negotiations in his speech to a Gaza reconstruction conference that raised more than \$5 billion (3.1 billion pounds) in aid for the Palestinians after a devastating war in the tiny coastal territory.

The last round of US-brokered peace talks foundered in April over Israeli objections to a Palestinian political unity pact that included the Islamist Hamas movement and over Palestinian opposition to Israeli settlement expansion.

“Out of this conference must come not just money but a renewed com-



US Secretary of State John Kerry disembarks his plane as he arrives at Cairo International Airport on 12 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

mitment from everybody to work for peace that meets the aspirations of all, for Israelis, for Palestinians, for all people of this region,” Kerry told the meeting in Cairo.

“And I promise you the full commitment of President (Barack) Obama, myself and the United States to try to do that,” he said.

“Make no mistake: What was compelling about a two-state solution

a year ago is even more compelling today,” added Kerry, referring to the long-term goal of an independent, democratic Palestinian state living peacefully alongside Israel.

At the conference Kerry also announced an additional \$212 million in US aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, which was badly damaged during a conflict with Israel in July and August in which 2,100 Palestinians died, most of

them civilians.

An estimated 18,000 homes and vital infrastructure were destroyed in the seven-week war between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas.

The Palestinians have put the cost of reconstruction at about \$4 billion and Norway’s Foreign Minister Borge Brende said the conference had secured \$5.4 billion in aid, half of which would be used for rebuilding Gaza and the rest could go to other Palestinian areas.

Dozens of countries attended the Cairo meeting where a clear message emerged: pledges and picking up the pieces after fighting is not the solution, and a comprehensive Middle East peace deal is needed to end hostilities once and for all.

“A ceasefire is not peace, and we’ve got to find a way to get back to the table and help people make tough choices, real

choices,” said Kerry.

The Palestinian Authority hopes that moves by a new unity government towards assuming control in Hamas-dominated Gaza could make wealthy donor states less wary of providing reconstruction aid.

Among countries offering reconstruction aid for Gaza, Qatar offered \$1 billion, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates promised \$200 million each and Turkey pledged \$200 million.

Qatar’s relations with Egypt have been strained since then army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi toppled Islamist President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood last year.

The small but ambitious Gulf Arab state’s close ties to Hamas, an offshoot of the Brotherhood, also angered Egypt, which is influential across the Arab world. Israel and the United States consider Hamas a terrorist organisation. When journalists were allowed in briefly for the

start of one-on-one talks in a Cairo suburb, Kerry was overheard asking Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas: “Did you hear about Qatar?” presumably referring to the \$1 billion pledge.

France said it would contribute 40 million euros (31.4 million pounds) to the Palestinians and Germany offered 50 million euros. Britain’s ambassador to Egypt, John Casson, told *Reuters* London would provide \$32 million for the reconstruction efforts.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said pledges from the bloc’s 28 member states would reach 450 million euros. It was not immediately clear whether the sum included the separate contributions announced by Germany, France and Britain.

“We can’t allow people in Gaza to sink into despair,” German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Putin, government to discuss implementation of president’s state-of-nation address



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Moscow, 13 Oct — Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold a regular meeting with government members on Monday to discuss implementation of tasks set in his last year’s state of the nation address to the Federal Assembly, the Kremlin press service said on Monday.

In his annual state-of-the-nation address to the Federal Assembly in December 2013, Putin outlined main areas of work, instruments and techniques to achieve Russia’s future development goals.

These included general principles of local

self-government organisation, issues concerning development of healthcare and education systems, and large-scale construction of affordable housing.

Putin stressed the need to resume sustainable economic and labour productivity growth, in which factors such as high-quality education should be fully implicated.

Improving living and working conditions in rural areas, and establishing modern, comfortable infrastructure there were considered agenda priorities alongside improving the business climate in the

country and controlling capital flight and repatriating Russian money hoarded abroad.

The incomes of companies that are registered in offshore jurisdictions and belong to Russian owners or whose ultimate beneficiaries are Russian nationals must follow Russian tax laws, and tax payments must be made to the Russian budget, Putin said.

The president specially stressed that the development of Siberia and the Far East should be Russia’s national priority for the entire 21st century, suggesting that a network of special territories should be created to offer attractive conditions to non-resource industries.

“If a decision has been made, then it must be implemented,” Putin said. “I consider this approach to be a concise expression of shared responsibility, and would suggest making this the motto of the coming year, a motto for everyone: for the government, for society, for citizens.

Itar-Tass

Jean Tirole wins 2014 Nobel Prize for Economics

STOCKHOLM, 13 Oct — French economist Jean Tirole won the 2014 economics Nobel Prize for his analysis of market power and regulation, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Monday.

“Jean Tirole is one of the most influential economists of our time,” the award-giving body said. “Most of all he has clarified how to understand and regulate industries with a few powerful firms.”

The economist will receive an 8 million Swedish crown (\$1.1 million) (683,187 pound) prize.

The economics prize, officially called the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was established in 1968. It was not part of the original group of awards set out in dynamite tycoon Nobel’s 1895 will.—*Reuters*



French economist Jean Tirole



Bolivian President Evo Morales (2nd R) waves to supporters in La Paz on 12 Oct, 2014. Exit polls showed Evo Morales has won Sunday’s presidential election. XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 14 October, 2014

Great babysitters are needed for twin sisters

By Aung Khin

Myanmar and Thailand have agreed on the establishment of twin provinces or sister provinces to foster a closer relationship between the key bordering provinces. Under the agreement, three provinces of Myanmar—Kentung, Myeik and Kawthaung—and Chiang Mai, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Ranong of Thailand will be declared sister prov-

inces.

The nature of twin relationship is a form of legal and social agreement between towns, cities, counties, oblasts, prefectures, provinces, regions, states, and even countries in geographically and politically distinct areas to promote cultural and commercial ties.

Such movement was established by Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States from 1953 until 1961 after the Second World War to set up people-to-people connections-citizen diplomacy, and thus cement the peace.

Many cities across the world have entered into relationships or partnerships with other cities called sister cities. State leaders have some idea behind forming a sister city partnership to forge cultural and commercial ties between two different areas of the globe. Sister city partner-

ships always involved local governments, but they can also include local businesses and citizens.

What the most important is the twin sisters will need great babysitters who can fully take care of the former. The latter are responsible for nurturing both sisters without bias. Systematic plans for short and long terms are required to overcome some challenges and to ensure peaceful coexistence at both sides.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Gaining English Language Proficiency

By Tommy Pauk

When you learn a human language you will find the different expressions both in spoken and in written forms. The main aim to use a certain language is to communicate each other. As we know, English is a Universal language and many different nationals use it in the world. In USA, UK, Canada, Australia, it is their official language. The power and usefulness of English language are very significant in the Information Technology, Computer Sciences, Education, Navigation, Aviation Industry, Space communications, Satellite Communications, the globalization of world trade, Hospitality Industry and Diplomatic relations etc. In communicating with English speaking people, you may encounter some misunderstanding and confusions unless you are proficient in English language. Therefore, a person who intends to use English as a second language must be proficient in different usages and expressions. Besides, he needs a language exposure as much as he can. He must Learn English language constantly and tries to master a language skill by using systematic approach. There is no short-cut method for learning any language. No matter you is an intermediate learner or an advanced learner, it is compulsory to know the terms below.

- Grammar :The set of rules that explain how words are used in a language for speech or writing
- Parse : To divide (a sentence) into grammatical parts and identify the parts and their relations to each other
- Syntax : The way in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses or sentences
- Semantics: The study of the meanings of words and phrases in language
- Lexicon: The words used in a language or by a person or group of people

Basically, let us learn some expressions in English language which are differently used for various intentions and purposes among English speaking communities and people. Learning the following expressions will be very useful and helpful for those who want to acquire a good command of English.

- Reported speech: A way of reporting what someone said without repeating their exact words. Look at two sentences; A. Julia said, 'I don't want to go'. B. Julia said that she did not want to go.

The clause 'that she did not want to go' is indirect speech and the words 'I don't want to go' is direct speech.

- Colloquial expression: It is informal way of saying or writing .e.g." On the blink", meaning not working. Example sentence:" The photocopier is on the blink".
- Slang expression: It is informal way of saying or writing. It is peculiar to a particular group or class.

E. g "buck" is a slang word for dollar. Example sentence: 'How many bucks do you have now?'

- Small Talk: It is a kind of Chit Chat. It is a light or casual conversation. Example sentence: "How are you today?"
- High-flown expression: It is used by fancy words that are meant to sound important and impressive. Example sentence: "Due to the mercy, bless and grace of your majesty the king and queen, we are able to make our living peacefully and safely."
- Idiomatic expression: It is used by a group of words that has a completely different meaning from the meaning of each word on its own. Example sentence: 1. "Don't worry about this silly row with the boss_ it's just a storm in a tea cup." Although you might know the words 'storm' and 'tea cup', you cannot guess the meaning of the idiom; 'a storm in a tea cup'. This idiomatic expression means that it is a situation where people get very upset and angry over something that is unimportant.
- Example sentence: 2. Daniel completely ignored me this morning when I said hello to him. For this situation, an idiomatic expression is used as: "He gave me the cold shoulder".
- Example sentence: 3. If you visit somebody or make a suggestion and other people are not enthusiastic, you can talk about 'a lukewarm reception' or a 'tepid response. e.g. 'His speech got a very lukewarm reception.'

Idioms are non- literal and they are used in metaphorical way so it is important for us to learn them for speaking, reading, listening and writing in English. Every newspaper is full of metaphorical language. We cannot avoid it or leave it till later. Furthermore, we must learn English vocabulary words and use them accurately and correctly. Since it is a living language, we need to learn new words (known as "Buzz words") continuously. However, we should use or construct the simple, correct, grammatical and straightforward sentences so that our messages or information will be comprehensible to the targeted readers as well as listeners.

- Archaic expression: It is no longer used but we should know it as an ancient usage.e.g 'thy' (The possessive form of thou), 'Thou' means 'you' in modern English.' thee' (the object (pronoun) of the verb) e.g. "We thank Thee for Thy goodness." This sentence is deciphered as 'We thank you for your goodness.'
- Figurative Speech: Any words or phrases which are not intended to be taken literally. Writers and speakers frequently use figure of speech to make

prose more lively and memorable.

- Metaphor: Pushing the listener or reader to identify the similarities between the two. Example sentences: "Julie's house is pigsty". Here, Julie's house is compared to pigsty. The implication is that Julie's house is dirty and messy. It is not directly described as "Julie's house is similar to pigsty". Example sentences: a. 'Best friends are boomerangs', they might sometimes drift far away but they always come back.
b. 'Life is a rollercoaster' because you never know when it is going to turn.
- Simile: The comparison between Two: - an animate being and an inanimate object. The phrases are used with 'like' or 'as'
Example sentences: 'Her heart is hard as a rock' 'Her behavior is gentle as a lamb'. 'The crocodile is sleeping like a log'. 'The president is busy as a bee'.
- Hyperbole: A type of figurative speech which utilizes exaggerations and overstatements to emphasize the truth or create a strong response in the reader or listener. The hyperbolic expression is often seen in the media and for humor. Example sentences and phrase: 'I have said the story a million times'. (I have said the story many times). 'Simon was so hungry that he could eat a horse.' (Simon was very hungry).
'Tons of money' (a lot of money), 'mile high ice-cream cones '. So they should not be taken literally, instead, they create clear feeling or image.
- Personification: It is a kind of metaphor which attributes human qualities (such as emotion) to an object, idea or animal.
Example: 'My Teddy bear gave me a hug.' 'The trees are murmuring'. 'The brook is singing sweetly'. 'a huge blaze consumed a small city'. 'A swarm of butterflies is dancing'. 'The snake is dancing in front of the snake charmer'. 'Mother earth is weeping as she suffers a lot of destructions made by men.'
- Irony: A figure of speech characterized by a statement meaning the opposite of its literal definition. 'Sarcasm is an example of irony.' (Sarcasm is a way of speaking or writing that involves saying the opposite of what you really mean in order to make an unkind joke or to show that you are annoyed). Examples: 'It is so nice you to read my letters without asking my permission.'
'In 1912, the Titanic was touted as '100 % unsinkable', and yet the ship sank its maiden voyage.'
'My dad will be so happy if he will see my school report card in vibrant colors.'
- Ironic situations: 'Your car was stolen at the police station! 'A fire broke out in the fire station.'
- Alliteration: The use of words that begin with the same sound near one another .e.g. ' wild and woolly', 'a babbling brook ', 'safe and sound'

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker receives Chancellor of the Australian National University and former FM

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Foreign Minister at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Offices.—MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Mr Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Foreign Minister.—MNA

Threats of nuclear weapons discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — Mr Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Foreign Minister, called on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the ministry on Monday.

They discussed mat-

ters relating to the threats posed by nuclear weapons and international collaboration to achieve a world where nuclear weapons are ultimately eliminated and the active participation of Myanmar in the field of nuclear disarmament.

MNA

4th gems and utility jade sales 14-20 October

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — Gems emporiums are held with the aim of creating job opportunities and developing the domestic jewellery industries, said Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung at the coordination meeting of the central committee for sales of uncut gems and utility jade at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Officials of the sub-committees reported on preparations for holding the emporium.

The chairman of the

central committee and deputy ministers gave supplementary reports on preparation for the gems emporium.

The 4th gems and utility jade sales will be held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 14 to 20 October.

On 14 and 15 October, the merchants can check the gems. On 16 October, 160 lots of gem lots will be sold through open tender. A total of 6,982 lots of utility jade will be sold from 17 to 20 October.

MNA

Gaining English . . .

(from page 8)

Alliteration includes tongue twisters. e.g., “She sells seashells by the seashore.” “Betty bought the butter but the butter is bitter.”

We should not only learn vocabulary, syntax, grammar, semantic and nature of language, but also should learn the culture, traditions and history of English people so that we can catch their way of life, attitude and concepts.

This compilation is just basic knowledge for the learners to approach English language trend. Any way, it will be a beneficial guide for them to use English language properly. Therefore you must learn it, use it, and widen the exposure to English Language environment. This constant practice will enable the scholar to gain English language Proficiency.

Election Sub-commissions prepare for compilation of voters list for 2015 elections

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct —A clarification on compilation of voters list for Union Election Commission and sub-commissions at different levels was held in conjunction with the coordination meeting on election tasks at the hall of UEC in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

UEC member U Myint Naing explained compilation of the voters list, UEC member U Win Kyi, plans for collecting the voters list across the nation and an official of Ministry of Immigration and Population, the word of citizenship in the second amendment of



UEC members meet with election sub-commissions at different levels.—MNA

the Political Parties Registration Law.

UEC member U Win Kyi said that voters list will be gathered across the nation through three steps—first step from November 2014 to January 2015, the

second from December to March 2015 and the last from February to May 2015.

An official of International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) explained a plan to keep the

data of voters lists across the nation at the main server of the commission office.

Chairmen of region/state sub-commissions reported preparations for 2015 elections.

MNA

94th anniversary Myanmar Motion Picture Day marked

YANGON, 13 Oct — Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway attended the ceremony to mark the 94th anniversary Myanmar Motion Picture Day and the 51st ceremony to pay respects to older persons at the office of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization in Bahan Township of Yangon on Monday morning.

Chairman of the organization U Lu Min extended greetings.

The deputy minister, departmental heads, chairman and executives

of MMPO paid respects to older persons of above 70 years and presented gifts.

An official of Sky Net donated K2 million to the organization through chairman U Lu Min.

The deputy minister and party visited the charity fair donated by film producers, artists, entrepreneurs and wellwishers. The deputy minister inspected production of school text books for 2015-2016 academic year at Photolitho Press of Pringing and Publishing Enterprise in Bahan Township.—MNA

No unlicensed car imported through Hteekee border-trade station

YANGON, 13 Oct — Contrary to the claims of the locals, no unlicensed car is imported through Hteekee border trade station in Tanintharyi Region from southern Thailand, according to an official at the border-trade station who requested anonymity.

“We are working in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Commerce. We just collect duties for goods imported or exported through our station. Over one thousand vehicles transport goods through our station everyday with trade licenses issued with one-stop service,” the official added.

Bamboo shoot, corn, cashew nuts and pepper are exported from Myanmar and cosmetics, foodstuff and a

few vehicles are imported from Thailand through the border-trade station.

The official said that vehicles are legally imported through the border-trade station but locals accused officials at the border-trade station of turning a blind eye to smuggling of unlicensed cars into the country. “There are about 3 trucks smuggling unlicensed cars into the country through the border-trade station every day and this means about 30 unlicensed cars are smuggled in the country every day,” said a local named U Zaw Htay.

The border-trade station connecting Hteekee and southern Thailand was opened in May, 2013.

Myitmakha

(Edited by MWT (GNLM))

**AFC U-19
Championship 2014**
Iran 2 : 0 Myanmar

Few Serbian citizens are fighting on battlefields abroad

BELGRADE, 13 Oct — Zoran Babic, caucus whip of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) as the central party in the government coalition, stated on Sunday that the information of security services shows that only a dozen Serbian citizens or several dozens at most are fighting on battlefields abroad. The Serbian parliament adopted on Friday the amendments to the Criminal Code increasing the penalties for individuals wishing to take part in wars abroad so that the state



could prevent citizens from departing for battlefields worldwide regardless of their geographic position, be it Syria, Iraq or Ukraine, Babic said and added that the location makes no difference.

Serbia does not want to close its eyes and ignore the participation of our citizens in clashes on battlefields abroad for various reasons, be they financial or ideological, Babic told the Belgrade-based Television Pink.

This is why the amendments to the Criminal Code increased the penalties for those wishing to take part in clashes abroad, Babic said and added that citizens already participating in armed conflicts abroad can return to Serbia but

they will be held accountable for their actions. He recalled that the sentence for the criminal act of participation in clashes abroad adds up to six months to five years of imprisonment, while organizers can be sentenced to one to eight years of prison.

Serbia wants to export its expertise, goods and service and to be famous for sports and other results, not for the trail of its citizens on battlefields worldwide, he said. We are struggling to improve the country's

image abroad and to act as a stability factor in the region, and we are members of the coalition in the fight against terrorism, Babic underscored.

He said that the government wants its citizens to stay in Serbia and be functional members of the community instead of armed bombs.

Babic said that the amendments to the law send a clear signal to everyone who was on the wrong line of thought.

Tanjung

NZ raises terror-threat level from very low to low

SYDNEY, 13 Oct — The New Zealand government has raised its terror-threat level from very low to low, Prime Minister John Key said in a statement on Monday, with the elevation meaning a terror attack is now being assessed as "possible but not expected." "Our national threat level has been increased by officials from very low to low, which means that where previously the threat of a terrorist attack was assessed as unlikely, it is now assessed as possible but not expected," Key said in a statement.

He noted that the authorities were aware of a "small amount" of New Zealanders who had travelled overseas to fight for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and others who had the desire to do so.

"Although the number of New Zealanders in these situations is modest compared with the actual numbers of our partners, they are significant relative to New Zealand's size. And they do represent a change in the New Zealand context," he said.

Key also announced a four-week review of legislation in relation to foreign fighters.

"Without preempting the outcome of the review, it is likely to recommend that some urgent changes be made to legislation," he said.

New Zealand's decision to elevate the country's terror-threat level is in line with recent developments in Australia and Britain.

Kyodo News

Policewoman killed in China's Xinjiang

BEIJING, 13 Oct — Two "thugs" stabbed to death a policewoman in the Chinese region of Xinjiang where the government says Islamists are using violence to push for a separate state, media reported on Monday.

The motorcycle-mounted attackers used sharp weapons to "cruelly attack and kill" the policewoman, China Central Television (CCTV) said on its official microblog on Monday.

Media did not specify the ethnicity of the policewoman but judging by her name, she was Uighur, a Muslim minority that calls Xinjiang home. CCTV cited a colleague of the woman as saying she was two months pregnant.

The attack occurred on Friday near a market in Pishan county, in Hotan prefecture.

Heavy restrictions on journalists in Xinjiang, where China has attributed recent violence to Islamist separatists it says seek to establish an independent state called East Turkestan, make verifying details about incidents difficult.

Hundreds of people have been killed in the region in the past two years, most in violence between Uighurs and ethnic majority Han Chinese.

The government has also blamed attacks in other parts of China, including Beijing, on militants from Xinjiang.

The attack on the policewoman follows the kill-

ing of a state-backed Uighur imam in July, incidents that suggest growing antagonism toward Uighurs aligned with the government.

Exiled Uighur groups and human rights activists say the government's own repressive policies in the region, on the borders of Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, have provoked unrest, an accusation the government denies.

In September, state media said police shot dead 40 rioters, some of whom were seeking to blow themselves up, after explosions went off in Luntai county.

Almost 100 people died in unrest in south Xinjiang's Shache county in July, which the government blamed on "terrorists" with links to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM).

China says the ETIM has ties to al-Qaeda, but there is disagreement among security experts over the extent of its capabilities, or even that it exists as a cohesive group.

Critics of the Chinese government say it uses the ETIM as an excuse to impose repressive policies on Uighurs, including restriction on religious practices and dress.

Many Uighurs cite employment discrimination and an influx of migrant Han workers as adding to ethnic tension.

Reuters

US general sees bigger role 'advising and assisting' Iraqi forces

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct — US troops will probably need to play a bigger role "advising and assisting" Iraqi forces on the ground in the future, the highest ranking US military officer said in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

US forces have been bombing Islamic State fighters in Iraq since August and expanded the air campaign to Syria last month. The White House has repeatedly said it will not send ground troops back to Iraq, where President Barack Obama withdrew US forces in 2011.

But General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said the role of US forces could be expanded in future if Iraqi troops try to recapture Mosul, the main city in northern Iraq, which Is-

lamic State fighters seized in June.

"Mosul will likely be the decisive battle in the ground campaign at some point in the future," Dempsey said in an interview aired on ABC's "This Week". "My instinct at this point is that that will require a different kind of advising and assisting, because of the complexity of that fight," he said.

The United States used army Apache attack helicopters for the first time this past week to provide close air support to Iraqi forces. Use of the low-flying helicopters is far riskier than bombing from jets but allows closer cooperation with troops engaged in combat on the ground.

Dempsey said the decision to use the Apaches was taken to halt fighters who

might otherwise have been able to attack Baghdad's airport.

"They overrun the Iraqi unit it was a straight shot to the airport. So, we're not going to allow that to happen. We need that airport," said Dempsey.

The airport lies on the western outskirts of Baghdad near territory where fighters have been active for months.

US air strikes have so far helped Kurds and government troops take back some territory in the north of Iraq but have not halted the fighters on the capital's Western outskirts or prevented them from striking inside the city. At least 45 people were killed in car bomb attacks in Baghdad on Saturday. On Sunday, fighters killed 28 people in an attack on a Kurdish se-



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Martin Dempsey

curity headquarters in the north and assassinated the police chief in the province west of Baghdad.

Last month, Dempsey raised the possibility that he might have to advise sending American ground troops into Iraq in future, although the White House

says it will not do so.

National Security Adviser Susan Rice told NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday that ground combat by US troops was ruled out.

"We'll do our part from the air and in many other respects in terms of building up the capacity of

the Iraqis and the Syrian opposition, the moderates. But we are not going to be in a ground war again in Iraq," she said.

Senator John McCain, ranking member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, said on CNN on Sunday that Obama's strategy against the Islamic State was failing. He said he did not think Islamic State fighters could take Baghdad but that they could take the airport and infiltrate Baghdad with suicide bombers.

"They're winning and we're not," McCain said. "Pinprick bombing is not working." Dempsey, will convene a meeting of more than 20 foreign defence chiefs next week outside Washington to discuss the multinational campaign against Islamic State.

Reuters

Kurds hold off Islamic State in Kobani; fighters strike in Iraq

MURSIPTINAR, (Turkey) / Baghdad, 13 Oct — Kurdish defenders held off Islamic State militants in Syria's border town of Kobani on Sunday, but the fighters struck with deadly bombings in Iraq, killing dozens of Kurds in the north and assassinating a provincial police commander in the west.

The top US military officer suggested that Washington, which has ruled out joining ground combat in either Iraq or Syria, could nevertheless increase its role "advising and assisting" Iraqi troops on the ground in the future.

US National Security Adviser Susan Rice said in a television interview that Turkey agreed to let bases be used by coalition forces for activities inside Iraq and Syria and to train moderate Syrian rebels in the fight against Islamic State.

A US-led military coalition has been bombing Islamic State fighters who hold swathes of territory in both Iraq and Syria, coun-

tries involved in complex multi-sided civil wars in which nearly every country in the Middle East has a stake.

In Syria, the main focus in recent days has been on the mainly Kurdish town of Kobani near the Turkish border, where Kurdish defenders have been trying to halt an advance by fighters who have driven 200,000 refugees across the border.

The jihadists have laid siege to the town for nearly four weeks and fought their way into it in recent days, taking control of almost half of the town. A UN envoy has said thousands of people could be massacred if Kobani falls.

As night fell on Sunday, the town centre was under heavy artillery and mortar fire, Ocalan Iso, deputy head of the Kobani defence council, said by Skype from inside the town. Heavy clashes were under way in the east and southeast, he said, with neither side gaining ground.



Smoke rises from the Syrian town of Kobani, seen from near the Mursitpinar border crossing on the Turkish-Syrian border in the southeastern town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province on 12 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

Idris Nassan, deputy foreign minister in the Kurdish administration for the Kobani district, said heavy fighting had begun around nightfall in the streets. Kurdish fighters had caught attackers in an ambush, he said from the town.

After days of Islamic State advances, the Syrian

Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said Kobani's Kurdish defenders had managed to hold their ground. The Observatory said 36 Islamic State fighters, all foreigners, were killed the previous day, while eight Kurdish fighters had died. The figures could not be independently verified.

Gun battles were taking place on Sunday near administrative buildings the jihadists had seized two days before, it said.

The fighting in Kobani has taken place within view of Turkish tanks at the frontier, but Turkey has refused to intervene to help defend the city,

infuriating its own 15 million-strong Kurdish minority, which rose up in the past week in days of rioting in which 38 people were killed.

Turkish Kurdish leaders have said their government's failure to aid the defence of Kobani could destroy Turkey's own peace process to end decades of insurgency that killed 40,000 people.

Kobani's heavily outgunned Kurdish defenders say they want Turkey to let them bring in reinforcements and weapons to fend off the Islamic State fighters, who seized heavy artillery and tanks seized from the fleeing Iraqi army in June.

"We want them to open the corridor so that our people can come and help us. We need many things," Esmat Al-Sheikh, head of the Kobani defence authority, told Reuters by telephone.

"We are in need of fighters, in need of everything."

Reuters

Islamist rebels blamed for car bomb in Somalia, at least seven dead



The wreckage of a vehicle after an explosion took place outside the Oromo restaurant in Mogadishu on 12 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

MOGADISHU, 13 Oct — Suspected Islamist rebels detonated a car bomb in front of a popular cafe in the center of the Somali capital on Sunday evening, killing at least seven people, police and the emergency services said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the Islamist militant group al Shabaab has frequently set off bombs or launched gun attacks in Mogadishu. It promised more attacks after it lost control of a major coastal stronghold a week ago.

"We believe al Shabaab is behind the blast," police officer Major Nuur Farah

told Reuters, saying the venue had been busy. Mogadishu ambulance coordinator, Abdiqadir Abdirahman, said at least seven people were killed and 15 wounded had been taken to hospital, some in a serious condition.

Reuters witnesses at the scene, which is on a major Mogadishu thoroughfare, saw at least three dead bodies, the gate and chairs of the Oromo cafe were destroyed and blood was spattered at the scene. The explosion was also near a hotel.

The wail of ambulance sirens filled the air in the city, which the government is struggling to secure even though al Shabaab militants

lost control of the capital in 2011. Al Shabaab wants to topple the government, which it says is a puppet of Western powers, and aims to drive out African Union peacekeepers, who still provide the backbone of security as the Somali army is slowly rebuilt to form a national force.

Al Shabaab has been steadily driven out of towns in its heartland of south and central Somalia by a military offensive of African and Somali troops. On 5 October, the group lost control of Barawe port, which offered a conduit for arms imports.

Officials and diplomats said losing Barawe, which also provided the group valuable income from illegal charcoal exports, as well as last month's killing by US military strike of its chief, Ahmed Godane, were big blows, but not enough to crush the group, which has proved skilled at guerrilla warfare.

The group had said last week it would prove it was still a potent force to those who said it had been weakened, describing abandoning Barawe as a tactical withdrawal.—Reuters

Car bomber hits NATO convoy in Afghanistan, one civilian dead

KABUL, 13 Oct — A suicide car bomber rammed a NATO military convoy along a major road out of Afghanistan's capital Kabul early on Monday, killing one Afghan civilian, authorities said.

It was the second car bomb attack on international forces in Kabul in a month as Taliban insurgents and their allies step up attacks ahead of the withdrawal of most foreign troops at the end of the year.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on the Jalalabad Road, a main thoroughfare with a US military base and a housing compound for UN and other international contractors and aid workers.

At least three foreigners were wounded in the blast targeting their armoured vehicles, but their identities were not known, police said.

A spokesman for the US-led NATO mission in Afghanistan said a patrol was attacked but there were no fatalities among the international force. The force does not confirm injuries.

The bomber in a Toyota Corolla car drove into

the convoy just before 7 am (0330 BST), said Farid Afzali, head of Kabul's police investigation department.

"As a result of the blast, one of our countrymen was killed and three foreigners slightly wounded," Afzali said.

Reuters television footage showed the remains of one of the white armoured

are fighting to expel foreign forces and re-establish their strict Islamist state driven from power in 2001, often exaggerate the results of their attacks.

The Taliban have been seeking to create instability ahead of this year's withdrawal of most foreign troops and also test the mettle of the newly trained Afghan security forces who



US troops remove a damaged vehicle, which was hit by a suicide attack, in Kabul on 13 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

vehicles, its engine blackened and mangled and side door damaged.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Majahid said on Twitter that the target was a foreign military convoy and several troops were killed. The insurgents, who

will bear most of the fight next year.

On Sunday, two Taliban suicide bombers stormed a police station in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, killing two and wounding 18.

Reuters

Faster, stronger and more efficient reforms needed



BELGRADE, 13 Oct — The reform-oriented Serbian government and the new convocation of the European Parliament and the European Commission (EC) should get Serbia to the front step of EU accession, if not to full membership, before the end of their mandates, Vice President of the Foreign Investors Council (FIC) Srdjan Lazovic said.

Commenting on the latest EC annual report on Serbia's progress, Lazovic told *Tanjug* that positive comments mean that Europe has not forgotten about Serbia, which constitutes primarily a positive impulse for foreign investors. Brussels and

Belgrade have come to the point when a new chapter in the Serbia-EU relations is about to open and during their mandates, both sides can get Serbia to the door of the EU, if not help it get full membership, Lazovic noted.

He added that the recent visit of FIC officials to Brussels is an indicator that Serbia is on the right track when it comes to EU accession, regardless of the fact that chapters in the accession talks have not officially been opened and that the Union's foreign policy priorities at this point rest on the EU eastern border and not in the Balkans.

Around 70 percent of FIC members come from the EU and this is the reason why we deeply believe that opening the formal accession talks would provide an additional momentum and a signal for investors that Serbia is an attractive destination for foreign investments, Lazovic said.

Another good sign would be an arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because it would testify of the government's commitment to introducing order in public finance, he stated.

A similar signal could come from the EU itself in case of opening Chapter 32 on financial and budget control, Lazovic noted.

During the visit to Brussels, we agreed that opening Chapter 32 would constitute additional progress, in addition to the arrangement with the IMF, in terms of the government's commitment to introducing order in public finance, he stated. Serbia is facing a difficult economic situation,

Lazovic said and added that the situation is the outcome of several decades' long shunning of economic problems.

Reforms need to be stronger, faster and more efficient, Lazovic said and underscored that the government should continue the public sector reform and reform of public enterprises, complete the restructuring and privatisation process and carry out reforms in the healthcare system, education and justice.

The fight against grey economy needs to be intensified because grey economy has a 25 percent stake in the country's GDP, he noted. In November, FIC will present to the government their White Book which contains a number of recommendations for improvement of the business climate, Lazovic who also holds office as the head of Corporate and Regulatory Affairs CEFTA Region and Bulgaria British American Tobacco South East Europe.—*Tanjug*

US Marine tagged as possible suspect in Filipino's killing

MANILA, 13 Oct — A US Marine was identified by Philippine authorities as a possible suspect in the killing of a Filipino in Olongapo City in northern Philippines.

In a statement issued on Monday, the US embassy here also said Washington will continue to fully cooperate with Philippine authorities in the ongoing investigation into the death of Jeffrey Laude, 26.

"The US Embassy in Manila expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Laude, who was found dead in Olongapo on 11 October," the statement read.

In an incident report issued by the Philippine National Police, the victim checked into a hotel in Olongapo City with an "unidentified white male foreigner."

A hotel staff found the lifeless body of Laude

less than an hour after they checked-in. Police noted that the body of the victim showed signs of strangulation.

The website *www.navytimes.com* reported that a US Marine is in custody and is being held on board the amphibious assault ship *Peleliu*. The ship is on a port call in Subic Bay and will be in the country until Tuesday.

Citing an internal Navy memorandum obtained by the Marine Corps Times, the website indicated that the Naval Criminal Investigative Service is looking into the matter.

The US Marine was one of the troops deployed to the Philippines to take part in the recently concluded Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise.

The website said US Marine Corps officials declined to comment on the matter.—*Xinhua*

India's opposition Congress party sacks spokesman

NEW DELHI, 13 Oct — India's main opposition Congress party on Monday sacked flamboyant former minister Shashi Tharoor as one of its party spokespersons, highly placed sources said.

Tharoor has been removed as Congress spokesperson after he recently

accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to be a part of 'Clean India' campaign, the sources said.

In fact, the decision came after Congress party's disciplinary panel recommended the action against him, based on a report from the party's Kerala unit, they said, adding

that Congress chief Sonia Gandhi gave the go-ahead.

Tharoor, a former diplomat of the United Nations, has consistently rejected suggestions that he is moving closer to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party by asserting that he is a "proud Congressman".

—*Xinhua*

Tropical Storm Fay brushes Bermuda with high winds and rain

MIAMI, 13 Oct — Tropical Storm Fay swept past Bermuda drenching the British territory in the Atlantic with winds gusting to hurricane force, the US National Hurricane Centre said on Sunday.

The storm, just below Category 1 hurricane strength with maximum sustained winds of 70 miles per hour (110 kph), was located 85 miles (140 km) north north-east of Bermuda on Sunday morning, the Miami-based centre said.

A hurricane watch was still in effect for Bermuda, it warned, noting that tropical storm force winds extended 175 miles (280 km) from the centre of Fay. Bermuda reported sustained winds of 61 mph (98 kph) and a wind

gust of 82 mph (132 kph) as the centre of Fay moved by the island, the hurricane centre reported.

There were no immediate reports of major damage on the island which has strict building codes and is well prepared for storms that sweep across the Atlantic during the June-through-November hurricane season.

An affluent island and global reinsurance centre located 640 miles (1,030 km) off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, Bermuda is home to some 65,000 people.

So far the 2014 Atlantic hurricane season has been relatively inactive and Fay was only the sixth named storm of the year. In August

forecasters downgraded their outlook for the season, predicting below-normal activity with seven to 12 named storms, and no more than two reaching major hurricane status.

A major hurricane is considered to be Category 3 or above with winds hitting at least 111 mph (178 kph).

Below-average temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean are making it difficult for larger storms to develop, the forecasters say.

Fay's formation came just over a month later than the typical date for the season's sixth named storm, according to Jeff Masters, a hurricane expert with private forecaster Weather Underground.

—*Reuters*

British parliament to hold symbolic vote on Palestine status



Light trails shine from a passing bus in front of Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament in London on 17 Nov, 2011. — REUTERS

LONDON, 13 Oct — British lawmakers will hold a symbolic parliamentary vote on Monday on whether the government should recognize Palestine as a state, a move unlikely to shift official policy but designed to raise the political profile of the issue. Britain does not class Palestine as a state, but says it could do so at any time if it believed it would help the long-running peace process between the Palestinians and Israel.

The motion due for debate in Britain's lower house of parliament, put forward by a lawmaker from the opposition Labour party, will ask parliamentarians whether they believe the government should recognize the state of Palestine.

It has the backing of the left-leaning Labour party's leadership which has told its

lawmakers to vote in favour of the motion, an edict which has caused anger with some pro-Israel members of parliament set to rebel or stay away altogether.

Other parties are allowing their lawmakers to vote according to their own consciences. Government ministers are expected to abstain.

Even if a majority of the House of Commons' 650 lawmakers do back the motion, it is non-binding and would not force the British government to change its diplomatic stance. Sayeeda Warsi, a lawmaker from Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative party who quit her ministerial post in August after accusing the government of taking a "morally indefensible" approach to the conflict between Israel and Hamas, said she hoped the motion would

pass. "There is a lack of political will and our moral compass is missing," the former Foreign Office minister said of the government's policies towards Israel and Palestine.

"There are no negotiations, there is no show in town. Somehow we have to breathe new life into these negotiations, and one of the ways we can do that is by recognizing the state of Palestine," she told *The Observer* newspaper on Sunday.

The debate comes as Sweden's new centre-left government is set to officially recognize Palestine, a move that has been criticized by Israel. The UN General Assembly approved the de facto recognition of the sovereign state of Palestine in 2012 but the European Union and most EU countries, including Britain, have yet to give official recognition.

The Palestinians want an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, with its capital in East Jerusalem.

While Gaza's boundaries are clearly defined, the precise territory of what would constitute Palestine in the West Bank and East Jerusalem will only be determined via negotiations with Israel on a two-state solution, negotiations which are currently suspended.—*Reuters*

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**Typhoon Vongfong hits Shikoku, proceeding to main island of Honshu**

Tokyo, 13 Oct — A large typhoon made landfall on the western main island of Shikoku Monday afternoon after crossing the southern part of the southwestern main island of Kyushu earlier in the day, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Typhoon Vongfong is likely to sweep through the Japanese archipelago through the next day, including areas surrounding Osaka before heading out to the Pacific off Japan's northern coast on Tuesday morning, where it is expected to weaken to a depression.

The weather agency warns that the typhoon may bring strong winds and rain to eastern and northern Japan through Tuesday, with an hourly precipitation of 80 millimeters or more forecast mainly for the Pacific-coast side.

The strong winds and rain brought on by the typhoon since Sunday have so far injured about 40 people, including two who broke their legs after being knocked down by gusts, according to a Kyodo News tally. A man who was fishing in Shizuoka Prefecture went missing in high waves on Sunday evening.

Evacuation adviso-



High waves pound the coast in the city of Kochi on the Japanese western main island of Shikoku on 13 Oct, 2014. Typhoon Vongfong made landfall on Shikoku the same day and is likely to sweep through the Japanese archipelago during the next day, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.—KYODO NEWS

ries were issued to about 100,000 residents in parts of Kochi Prefecture on Shikoku on Monday to prepare for possible landslides and other disasters.

Over 400 flights were cancelled the same day, many of them in and out of Kyushu and Shikoku, with service on the high-speed Sanyo Shinkansen Line temporarily halted in Hiroshima Prefecture due to strong winds in the morning.

Services on part of the Kyushu Railway network

were also suspended from the morning. West Japan Railway is set to cancel all conventional services in Osaka and its surrounding areas as the typhoon is expected to approach in the afternoon. The typhoon made landfall near Makurazaki, Kagoshima Prefecture, around 8:30 a.m. After coursing through the southern part of Kyushu, the typhoon made landfall again near the city of Sukumo, Kochi Prefecture, around 2:30 pm At 3 pm, the typhoon,

with an atmospheric pressure of 975 hectopascals at its center and packing winds of up to 162 kilometers per hour, was heading northeast around Shimanto, Kochi, at a speed of about 40 km per hour.

Total rainfall brought by the typhoon exceeded 500 mm in the town of Misato, and 400 mm in Nobeoka, both in Miyazaki Prefecture, in southeastern Kyushu. Gusts of 142 km per hour were recorded in Nishinoomote, Kagoshima.

Kyodo News

At least 30 killed in road accident in southern Egypt

CAIRO, 13 Oct — At least 30 people were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident early Monday in Egypt's southern province of Aswan, official news agency MENA reported. Most of the victims were local fishermen, MENA said, quoting Aswan Governor Mostafa Yusry.

The accident, involving three minibuses, happened on the Aswan- Edfo road, about 700 km south of Cairo.

Authorities are looking into the accident, but initial investigation blamed speeding as the main reason.

Road accidents in Egypt kill at least 12,000 people a year, according to official statistics.

Poor road maintenance and negligence of traffic rules are thought to be major reasons behind the high incidence of accidents.—Xinhua



Combination photo taken on 9 Oct, 2014 (upper) and 13 Oct, 2014 (lower) shows a sharp contrast of the urban area of Shijiazhuang, capital of north China's Hebei Province, during and after the smoggy days. A heavy wind coming with a cold front on 12 Oct blew away fog and smog which lingered in the city for several days.—XINHUA



FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th October, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Magway and Yangon Regions, Shan State and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mariah Carey holds solo concert in Chengdu



American singer Mariah Carey sings at her solo concert in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 12 Oct, 2014. —XINHUA

Britain musicians perform during 17th Beijing Music Festival

Musicians from Britain provide a performance of ukulele, a small guitar with four strings, during the 17th Beijing Music Festival in Beijing, capital of China, on 12 Oct, 2014. — XINHUA

Motherhood makes me feel at peace: Shakira



LONDON, 13 Oct—Singer Shakira, who is expecting her second child with football player Gerard Pique, says motherhood makes her feel at peace and she cannot wait for the baby to arrive in the world.

The 37-year-old 'Hips Don't Lie' singer, who gave birth to son Milan in January 2013, said she is well supported by Pique in handling the baby, reported *Hello* magazine.

"He is very involved with his son. He is always there for him, and that's a big advantage for me as I cannot imagine it any other way," she said.

"When you have a baby, when you feel his love, you feel so at peace with the world. You just want to share the good news and share how happy you feel," she added.

Shakira said she is in a good space with Pique, whom she first met in 2010. "We already have what's essential, you know? We have a union, a love for each other, and a baby," the singer said.—PTI

Monica Dogra turns warrior princess on ramp



Donning a midnight blue-orange embellished gown, hair styled in a long braid teamed with an ornate headgear, the 31-year-old 'Dhobi Ghat' actress looked every bit like a warrior princess as she glided down the runway amidst loud cheers.—PTI

NEW DELHI, 13 Oct—Actress Monica Dogra took to the ramp on day five of the Wills Lifestyle India Fashion Week for designer Kanika Saluja as she displayed her spring-summer collection inspired by fe-

male sexuality.

Donning a midnight blue-orange embellished gown, hair styled in a long braid teamed with an ornate headgear, the 31-year-old 'Dhobi Ghat' actress looked every bit like a war-

rior princess as she glided down the runway amidst loud cheers.

"I love the collection and especially what I am wearing. It is both feminine and strong. It made me feel like a woman who can do

anything she desires. The strong shoulders, structured silhouettes and flowy skirts reflect both femininity and strength," Dogra said after the show.

The collection part of Saluja's label Anaikka, had a range of silhouettes — capes, pantsuits, gowns, dresses, peplem blouses teamed with lehengas, harem and sarees.

The colour palette was vibrant with the usage of hues like pista, orange, maroon, brown, teal, blue with a sumptuous use of metallics in the hemlines, shoulders and busts.

"My collection is about about celebrating female sexuality and kamasutra. Through this collection I want to showcase that its time women assert their place in the society," Kanika said.

PTI

Lena Dunham adapting 'Catherine, Called Birdy' into movie

Lena Dunham announced the news at the New York Film Festival.



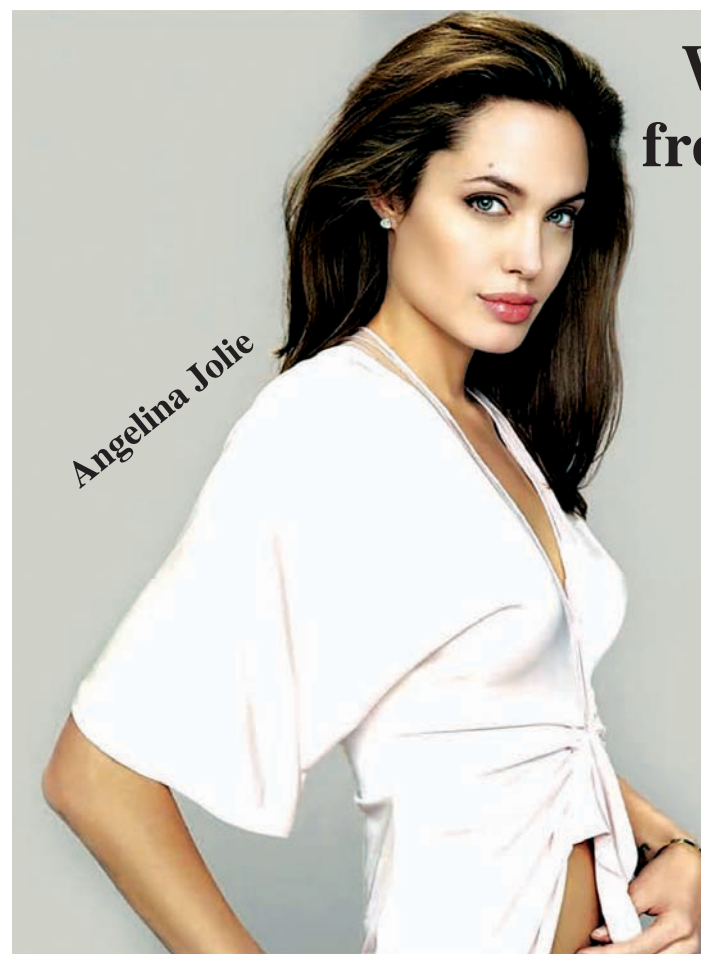
LOS ANGELES, 13 Oct — 'Girls' creator and star Lena Dunham has revealed plans to adapt young adult novel 'Catherine, Called Birdy' into a movie. She announced the news at the New York Film Festival, reported *Deadline*.

Dunham, 28, said about the project, "This is actually my first time talking about it publicly. I'm very excited about it. I'm not sure when it'll happen, but I'm in the process of working on it."

She also expressed

hopes of directing the film and detailed that she'd been interested in the book from a young age. "I'm going to adapt it and hopefully direct it. It's hyper realistic and really pretty and it's full of incest and beatings, but it's a child's story. I've been obsessed with it since I was a kid," she said.

'Catherine, Called Birdy' is written by Karen Cushman and is a coming-of-age story that follows a 12-year-old girl trying to scare off potential husbands.—PTI



Wish I had enjoyed freedom more as child

LOS ANGELES, 13 Oct — Angelina Jolie wishes she had enjoyed her freedom more when she was younger.

The 'Maleficent' actress, who has children Maddox, 13, Pax, 10, Zahara, nine, Shiloh, eight, and six-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne with husband Brad Pitt, said she is glad that she had the opportunity to make mistakes away from the spotlight, reported *People* magazine.

Asked what advice she would give her younger self, the 39-year-old Oscar-winning actress said, "Not to change a thing. I would probably say enjoy the freedom as much as you can before it goes away. Enjoy the walks in the park and the backpacking and travelling and living. Which I didn't, but I would have liked to have done more before it became a little less easy to do so."

"You can never prepare for the future, because it's all those things that build up to who you are. You have to let your younger self be scared of things and attack things head on. Make bold choices and make mistakes, and it's all those things that add up to the person you later become."—PTI

Diego Costa ends drought as Spain ease past Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG, 13 Oct — Diego Costa ended his long international scoring drought with the third goal in an uninspiring 4-0 win for Spain away to minnows Luxembourg in Euro 2016 qualifying Group C on Sunday.

Brazil-born Costa had failed to find the net for his adopted country in six previous appearances but broke a duck lasting more than 500 minutes when he netted from close range in the 69th minute in a rain-lashed Luxembourg City.

David Silva opened

the scoring in the 27th minute with a fine long-range strike and set up Paco Alcacer to make it 2-0 three minutes before halftime. Substitute Juan Bernat added the fourth two minute from the end.

The European champions hardly dispelled doubts about their form following Thursday's surprise 2-1 loss in Slovakia but the win put them back on track to qualify from a pool that also includes Ukraine, Belarus and Macedonia.

Reuters



Diego Costa of Spain (L) fights for the ball with Maxime Chanot of Luxembourg (R) during their Euro 2016 qualification soccer match at the Josy Barthel stadium in Luxembourg on 12 Oct, 2014.— REUTERS

Hodgson denies plan to substitute Rooney before goal

TALLINN, 13 Oct — England manager Roy Hodgson denied he had decided to substitute Wayne Rooney just before his captain scored what proved to be the decisive goal in England's 1-0 victory in Estonia on Sunday.

Substitute striker Rickie Lambert was warming up while Rooney

was preparing to take the 74th-minute free kick that produced the only goal of the Euro 2016 qualifier and gave England their third successive win in Group E.

But he went to sit back down on the bench with a smile on his face after watching Rooney's curling set-piece cross the

line as goalkeeper Sergei Pareiko fumbled the save.

ITV Sport, who televised the match, said they had seen a form prepared by the England coaching staff to hand to the fourth official indicating that Rooney was the player coming off, but Hodgson was not aware of that.

"As far as I know, no form went in," Hodgson said. "I was in discussions with other members of my staff, I don't know about any forms going in."

"No doubt you're going to produce some evidence that a form had gone in, in a minute, but that certainly wasn't my intention, put it that way."

Moments earlier he was asked if he had planned to take Rooney off.

"No, no," he said. "We were going to put Rickie Lambert on and we were discussing which

of the two front players to take off.

"I hadn't made up my mind it was going to be Wayne Rooney, it was probably more likely to be Danny Welbeck and it had to be Danny in the end because he turned his ankle slightly."

That substitution took place after 80 minutes when Lambert did replace Welbeck.

Rooney, who was appointed England captain in August, has now scored 43 goals in 99 appearances for his country and has moved to within one goal of Jimmy Greaves, third on the all-time list.

Bobby Charlton has topped the England scoring list since 1970 when he scored his 49th and last goal for his country in a friendly against Colombia just before the World Cup finals in Mexico.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(14-10-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:20 am

* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

* People Talks

8:00 am

* News / International News

9:30 am

* Documentary (ASEAN)

9:45 am

* Business News

10:00 am

* News

11:15 am

* Myanmar Traditional performing Arts Competitions

12:00 noon

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm

* Hluttaw Image

2:30 pm

* Talk On Old Film

3:00 pm

* News

3:15 pm

* Teleplay

4:45 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (History)

5:00 pm

* News

5:30 pm

* TV Drama Series

6:00 pm

* News / Weather Report

7:25 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Current Affairs

9:00 pm

* News

9:30 pm

* Hluttaw Image
* Mono Classical Songs
* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-10-14 07:00 am~ 15-10-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * My Great Limitless Adventure — Mandalay & Sagaing
- * World News
- * TECH School
- * Local News
- * Mesmerizing Scenes or Image of Japan
- * World News
- * Human Right, Human Dignity "Pencil"
- * Local News
- * Life In NightArt In Life (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * Short Cut: Great Shwedagon (1)
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
- * Local News
- * Products of Myanmar - Craft Blacksmithing
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * Local News
- * Adventure Abroad A Short Trip With Steve (South Korea)
- * World News
- * Temple Stalls
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar: "Milk Noodle"
- * World News
- * MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)
- * Local News
- * Youth of the Future: Vocalist, L-Jar Ngaing
- * World News
- * [Doctor][Painter]



England's soccer team captain Wayne Rooney (L) and coach Roy Hodgson attend a news conference ahead of their Euro 2016 qualification match with Estonia in Tallinn on 11 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

Federer downs injured Simon to win Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI, 13 Oct — Roger Federer claimed one of the few titles to have previously eluded him after he overcame a sluggish start to beat injured Frenchman Gilles Simon in the Shanghai Masters final on Sunday.

The Swiss 17-times grand slam singles champion triumphed 7-6(6), 7-6(2) to register his 23rd Masters Series title and first in China, where strong winds caused the roof on the Stadium Court to be closed.

The 33-year-old Federer let off a huge roar and threw both fists into the

air after a battling Simon netted a return to hand the Swiss his fourth title of the year and the 81st of his career.

"Well, it just makes me very happy winning here because this tournament means a lot to me," Federer told reporters.

"I've always enjoyed coming here. I've come close a couple of times, but I've always wanted to win it as a Masters 1000."

"I feel unbelievable prestige to win this event. Especially putting my hands on the trophy for the first time is a good feeling,



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after winning the men's singles final match against Gilles Simon of France at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on 12 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

I must say. I'm very happy with the way I'm playing."

It had all begun so well for the unseeded Simon, who broke a sloppy, error-strewn Federer in the opening game and comfortably held firm until he felt the pressure of serving for the set at 5-4 and began to creak.

With his first serve and accurate groundstrokes deserting him, Federer had two break points but wasted the first with an alarmingly high 14th unforced error only for Simon to hand him the game on the next point after netting a back-

hand.

A wobbling Simon fought off two set points on his next service game after finding his range with his first serve again to force a tiebreak with a booming ace as he refused to buckle in search of his first Masters Series title.

The world number 29 then had a set point of his own in the tiebreak but Federer came up with an unreturnable first serve to snuff out the danger before producing a near-perfect backhand winner down the line to take the breaker 8-6.

Reuters

South Korean Bae wins PGA Tour season opener

AUGUSTA (Georgia), 13 Oct — South Korean Bae Sang-moon built a big lead but had to survive a mid-round slump to earn a two-shot victory at the \$6 million Frys.com Open in Napa, California on Sunday.

Bae carded a final round of 73 to finish on 15-under-par 273 at Silverado Country Club in the opening event of the 2014-15 season on the PGA Tour.

Australian Steven Bowditch (67), boosted by an eagle at the par-five

16th, finished second on 13-under.

Bae posted four bogeys in a seven-hole stretch mid-round but the 28-year-old held on to take the win and pocket \$1.08 million for his second victory on the PGA Tour.

He also has 12 international wins.

Bae built a six-shot lead early in the final round but made the mistake of looking at the leaderboard as a mixture of nerves and excitement got the better of him as he frittered away most of his

advantage.

However, none of his closest rivals could launch a serious challenge and Bae had the luxury of missing a series of short putts without ever letting his lead dip below two strokes in demanding, breezy conditions.

“Sometimes I felt excited too much and sometimes nervous, and sometimes lost focus a little,” he told reporters.

“I didn’t want to look at the scoreboards, but I did. I looked a lot. That’s why I made a lot of bogeys on the back nine.”

It was Bae’s first top-10 finish since he won the Byron Nelson Championship in May of last year, but he expressed confidence that this latest success would be the first of many.

“After the first win, I didn’t play well last year,” he added. “I was very frustrated, very anxious and nervous, but now I’ve got the second one, I think third and fourth will come easy since I have the confidence.”

Bae said he hoped to earn a spot on the International team for the Presidents Cup to be played in his homeland next year and also wanted to represent South Korea when golf returns to the Olympic program in 2016.

Reuters



South Korea’s Bae Sang-moon hits his tee shot on the seventh hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia on 11 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Rooney closes on scoring record with winner in Estonia



England’s Wayne Rooney (L) controls ball during the Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match against Estonia at the A Le Coq Arena in Tallinn on 12 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

TALLINN, 13 Oct — Wayne Rooney struck with a 74th-minute free kick to give England a 1-0 win over 10-man Estonia in a Euro 2016 Group E qualifier on Sunday and move to within six goals of Bobby Charlton’s record tally of 49.

Rooney curled home his set-piece from the edge of the penalty area after Raheem Sterling was fouled and although goalkeeper Sergei Parelko got his hands to the ball it went in off the post.

The England skipper, playing his 99th international, has now scored 43 times for his country, one behind Jimmy Greaves who is third on the all-time list.

Estonia were reduced to 10 men for the second suc-

cessive qualifier when their captain Ragnar Klavan was sent off for a second yellow card after 49 minutes for fouling Fabian Delph, leaving them with an even tougher task.

However, they managed to frustrate England for long periods before the visitors scored to maintain their perfect start to the campaign with a third successive win.

Rooney could easily have moved past Greaves’s record and gone closer to Gary Lineker’s 48 goal-haul as well as Charlton’s record tally, but missed two good chances in the first half, and one in stoppage time when he shot straight at Parelko.

“We knew it was going to be a tough game, but it was a good win,” Rooney

told ITV Sport.

“The pleasing thing tonight is that we have a young team and we hung in there and saw the game out well.”

England manager Roy Hodgson said he thought his team played some “excellent” football in the first half but failed to convert chances. “That led to an air of frustration in the second half,” Hodgson said. “When you dominate the opposition and get so many opportunities in and around the box you have got to take the chances, at least one, and we didn’t.”

“Still we did in the second half, and now we have won all of our last four games and kept five clean sheets in a row and that’s not to be sniffed at.”

Reuters

Platini’s Euro revolution inspires shocks and complacency

LONDON, 13 Oct — When Michel Platini revamped the European Championship, turning the finals from a tough, lean 16-team tournament in 2012 into a flabby, ‘roll up, anybody’s welcome’ 24-side affair in 2016, it was not surprising he ran into a blizzard of rebukes.

At a stroke, it seemed to many, UEFA’s President had messed around with a perfectly-formed event that actually needed no meddling. Suddenly, it may have felt to the best teams in Europe as if qualification for the finals was a divine right, not a hard-earned privilege.

Was this then perhaps the main reason for the major nations’ sluggish start to the qualifiers and for the spate of wholly unlikely results which have

so far proliferated after just the opening couple of rounds of matches?

Perhaps, though, despite inducing a degree of complacency among the elite, the Frenchman may also have created a structure where those teams who once felt they had no chance of qualifying now believe the finals in France 2016 is not just some impossible dream.

The theory now is that, with two teams and sometimes three per group guaranteed to make the finals in France, Europe’s top guns can afford an absent-minded off-day and still feel as safe as houses.

Indeed, perhaps sub-consciously amid their post-Brazil slumbers, they have happily taken advantage of this comfort zone, which may

explain some of the startling results which have afflicted them so far.

Still, though, there has been a ‘so what?’ feel to these sensations. Portugal get beaten at home by Albania. So what? Let Ronaldo rest his injury, come back rejuvenated and even if they finish behind Serbia and Denmark, they will probably still qualify.

So the world champions Germany are downed for the first time ever by their Polish neighbours? Great, but not a soul imagines that the reverse will remotely derail the Mannschaft’s progress towards France 2016.

What about the reigning champions’ loss to Slovakia, their first defeat in a Euro qualifier for eight years? No problem.



UEFA President Michel Platini shows the name of London after it was chosen to host the finals of Euro 2020 during a ceremony in Geneva on 19 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Spain strolled to a 4-0 win over Luxembourg to right the football world’s axis.

To be fair, there were some extenuating circumstances behind these three shocks.

Portugal were coming off their calamitous World Cup campaign and in the death throes of the unpopular Paulo Bento’s reign, had taken the precaution of resting Ronaldo. These days they are not good enough to do without him.

Germany did not look too shabby but simply suffered one of those nights when, despite fashioning countless chances, their finishing could not match the build-up.

As for Spain, they too dominated in Zilina only to discover that Diego Costa remained as blunt in Spanish red (no goals in six appearances at that point, before he broke his duck on Sunday

against Luxembourg) as he is sharp in Chelsea blue (nine goals in seven Premier League games).

These were not isolated freak events, though. There have been other odd happenings, too, compared to the shock-free zone of 2012 qualifying.

Liechtenstein, FIFA ranked 172, drew with and could have beaten 43rd ranked Montenegro and then were “only” beaten 2-0 by Sweden on Sunday.

Cyprus, ranked 85th, came from behind to win at the home of World Cup finals qualifiers, Bosnia; Switzerland, the 10th best team in the world according to FIFA, lost 1-0 to Slovenia ranked 53rd, and World Cup semi-finalists Netherlands succumbed to the Czech Republic.

Reuters